

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for joining an initial section (3) of a film tube (2) which is wound up in a band-like manner on a reel (1) with an end section (4) of a second film tube (5) extending over subsequent processing stations, especially a packaging system, in an at least partly band-like manner, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one upwardly pivoting tab (3a, 3b, 4a, 4b) each is formed by the placement of a cut in the initial and end sections (3, 4) of the two film tubes (2, 5) to be joined, with the tabs (3a, 3b, 4a, 4b) of the initial and end sections (3, 4) being placed above one another and joined in a tension-proof way with each other.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the placing of the cut occurs in such a way that the two initial and end sections (3, 4) to be joined are each cut off transversally to the longitudinal extension (L) of the film tubes (2, 5) and the corner regions (15) of the initial and end sections (3, 4) thus produced are cut off at an acute angle relative to the longitudinal extension (L)

of the film tubes (2, 5), so that two tabs (3a, 3b, 4a, 4b) each are produced at the initial and end sections (3, 4) to be joined which taper at the end side.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the placement of the cut occurs transversally to the longitudinal extension (L) of the film tubes (2, 5) at a right angle to the longitudinal extension (L), so that the tabs (3a, 3b, 4a, 4b) taper in a trapezoid manner in the initial and end sections (3, 4) of the two film tubes (2, 5).

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tension-proof connection of the initial and end sections (3, 4) of the film tubes (2, 5) is formed by welding.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the welding occurs by means of ultrasonic sound.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the tabs (3a, 3b, 4a, 4b) of the joined initial and end sections (3,

4) of the film tubes (2, 5) are sucked up and pivoted by means of negative pressure.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims 3 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein for welding the initial and end sections (3, 4) of the film tubes (2, 5) a tab (3a 3b) of the initial section (3) is placed on a welding anvil (14) and is sucked up by the same by means of negative pressure, and a tab (4a, 4b) of the end section (4) is placed on the tab (3a, 3b) situated on the welding anvil (14) and is welded together with the same.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A packaging system with a reel (1) on which a film tube (2, 5) is wound up, a positioning and tensioning station (6a, 6b) which unwinds the film tube (2) from the reel (1) and supplies the same to subsequent sections of the system, a packaging unit (20) for processing a film tube section and a conveying device (21) for removing packaged goods, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one cutting apparatus (7, 8, 9) for cutting the film tube (2), ~~and~~ a welding station (12, 13) for processing the film tube (2), ~~is arranged between the positioning and tensioning station (6a, 6b) and the packaging unit (20).~~ and pivoting suction means (10, 11) are arranged between the positioning and tensioning station (6a 6b) and the packaging unit (20).

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A packaging system according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the welding station (12, 13) concerns an ultrasonic welding station.

Claim 10. (Canceled)